



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

Police to focus on traffic safety as summer holidays approach

With the approach of the end of school and summer holidays, Wichita Police Officers will be placing an additional emphasis on traffic safety May 23 through June 5 throughout the city. This enforcement effort is a part of the statewide project under the Kansas Department of Transportation *Kansas Clicks* STEP grant.

“Memorial Day is the first major holiday to kick off the summer season, and we want to ensure that everyone is buckled up and driving safely,” said Patrol West Traffic Sergeant Jerry Quick. “We want motorists to arrive safely at their destinations so they will enjoy the holiday and not be struck by tragedy or the loss or serious injury of a loved one.”

Officers from the **Patrol West Bureau** will be monitoring two of the most traveled thoroughfares in that Bureau: West 21st Street and West Central. They will be focusing on adult and child restraint violations, along with speeding and other violations that are contributing factors to accidents.

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Additionally, **Patrol West** will be running a DUI check lane from 11:30 p.m. on June 2 to around 3 a.m. on June 3. The check lane will be a joint effort between WPD and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, and will be located at 2200 S. Meridian. Drivers who approach the lane should be prepared to present their driver's license and proof of insurance. Any drivers who cannot produce these items, or who are suspected of driving under the influence, will be asked to pull over into another lane.

Officers from the **Patrol East Bureau** will be working high volume traffic areas and high accident locations such as Kellogg and Rock Road. They will also be conducting a DUI check lane from 11 p.m. on May 30 until 3 a.m. on May 31 at 1000 S. Oliver, utilizing Impaired Driver Deterrence Grant funding through the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Patrol South Officers will spend a number of hours conducting enforcement efforts on Kellogg. They will also focus efforts around schools to make sure that the school year concludes safely for students, teachers and parents. South Officers will also place an emphasis on DUI enforcement during the two-week grant period, and motorists can expect to see enforcement around major intersections/high accident locations within the Bureau area. These include 31st and Seneca, Pawnee and Seneca, and all of the Kellogg onramps and exits.

The **Patrol North Bureau** will conduct a seatbelt check lane from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 24 on Amidon Street between the river and 21st Street North. They will also be enforcing speeding and seatbelt violations in heavy traffic areas such as East 13th Street, North Rock Road, Hillside and Amidon.

Wichita has recorded 11 fatalities between January 1 and May 19, 2005. Of those 11 fatalities, six them, or 55 percent, were alcohol/drug related. During the same time period in 2004 there were eight fatalities, and five of them were alcohol/drug related.

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For more information on any of these projects, please contact Sgt. Rusty Leeds, Patrol North 688-9500; Sgt. Donnie Phelps, Patrol South 337-9200; Sgt. Jerry Quick, Patrol West 337-9400, or Sgt. James Krok, Patrol East 688-9331.

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The graphic features a yellow background with a blue gradient at the top. The title "Top 10 Reasons Kansas Clicks" is written in a stylized, bold font. "Top 10" is in blue, "Reasons" is in yellow, "Kansas" is in blue, and "Clicks" is in yellow. A blue seat belt buckle icon is positioned between "Kansas" and "Clicks".

10. People can't laugh and point at your seat belt dragging along the road outside your car.
9. If you were meant to fly, you'd have wings.
8. It's better to wear them now in your car, than later in a wheel chair.
7. When you pass a patrol car, you won't have to become a contortionist to find your seat belt.
6. While Kansas roads are great, they're not so great for your complexion.
5. Crash dummies, Vince and Larry, have been through enough.
4. It's one belt that matches every outfit and never goes out of style.
3. You don't want to be the first at the scene of a crash.
2. It's easier to keep friends, if you're still alive.
1. Your mother told you to!!

For more information contact:
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